

Missouri Living Will

- The living will is often combined with the DPOA-HC as an advance directive.
- A living will must be in writing, and you must sign and date it. Any competent person 18 years or older can make a living will.
- In Missouri, living wills take effect only if you have a terminal illness and can no longer make your own health care decisions. Your living will cannot state that you wish to have food and hydration withheld.
- If you decide to revoke your living will, you may do so at any time, and in any way you are able (in writing or orally).



A living will is another document you can make.

Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

P. O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO
65102-0570

800-309-3282

LTCOmbudsman@health.mo.gov

<http://on.mo.gov/14hXrKZ>

Alternate forms of this publication for persons with disabilities may be obtained by contacting the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at 800-309-3282. Hearing- and speech-impaired citizens can dial 711.



Missouri Department
of Health and Senior
Services

More Information:

Make decisions about your health care treatments only after you have gathered enough information for an informed choice.

You can find information about living wills, advance directives, and durable power of attorney from the following sources:

Your attorney

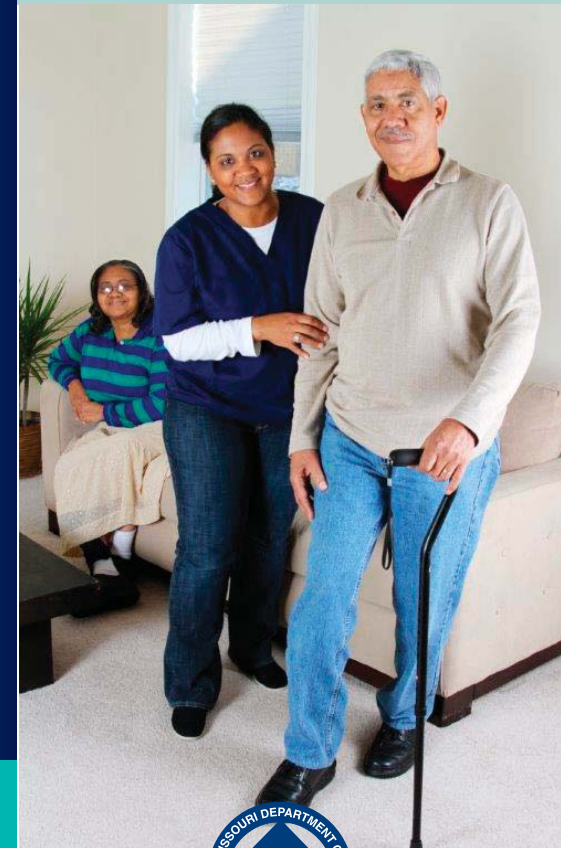
Center for Health Ethics
<http://bit.ly/15pjsqY>

The Missouri Bar
www.mobar.org

The Missouri Attorney General's Office
www.ago.mo.gov

A Brief Summary:

Your Right to Make Health Care Decisions



Advance Directives



Health Care

Residents of long-term care facilities have the right to make their own health care treatment decisions. The facility must inform residents about this right.

This brochure may help you and your loved ones understand your right under Missouri law to accept or refuse medical treatment, including life support. There are several legal documents that help you to communicate your wishes. These are called "advance directives."

An advance directive contains your written instructions about what actions should be taken for your health care treatment if you are no longer able to make decisions due to illness or incapacity.

Your nursing home or long-term care facility is required to ask whether you have an advance directive and must keep your directive documents on file. A nursing home cannot refuse to allow you to move in if you don't have an advance directive, and it must abide by your directives. Your nursing home must tell you how it handles medical emergencies and advance directives.

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

A durable power of attorney for health care (DPOA-HC) is a document that allows you to designate another person to take over and make health care and treatment decisions for you if you are unable to do so.

You must sign the DPOA-HC and have it notarized. You may revoke it at any time, in any way you can, so long as you are competent. You may specifically state that food and hydration may be withheld.

The DPOA-HC can become effective immediately, or after two licensed physicians have certified that you are indeed incapacitated, unless you specify that only one physician is needed to certify.

Other Advance Directives

You have the right to have other, more expanded advance directives that go beyond what a living will can state. While you are still competent and able to communicate, you have the right to refuse or discontinue treatment at any time. If you become incapacitated and unable to make those decisions, and do not have an advance directive, you may lose your right to refuse or discontinue treatment.

You can make your own expanded advance directive, specifying your own desires, with clear instructions as to what treatments or equipment you would want used or not used in your health care treatment.